III. REMARKS

1.   Claims 1, 8 and 9 are amended. Claims 10-45 are new.

2.   Claims 1-6 are not anticipated by Handel under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature that "the estimate of speech together with some noise is estimated to have a noise level lower than the noise level in the signal containing noise". This is not disclosed or suggested by Handel.

Handel states that there is "an estimated model of the noisy speech". This is an estimation of the model of the original noisy speech that is used in the noise suppression method.

Claim 1 is novel over Handel since in claim 1 the noise level in the estimate of speech together with some noise is lower than the noise level in the signal containing noise, whereas in Handel, the noise level in the "an estimated model of the noisy speech" is identical to the noise level in the signal containing noise since this is a model of the original noisy speech.

Handel provides a straightforward teaching that the "estimated model of the noisy speech" is an estimation of the model of the original noisy speech that is used in the noise suppression method. There is no suggestion whatsoever that there should be an estimate of speech together with some noise being estimated to have a noise level lower than the noise level in the signal containing noise, as claimed in Applicant's invention. In the absence of such a teaching or any suggestion towards it, claim 1 is inventive over Handel. Claims 2-6 should be allowable at least by reason of their respective dependencies.
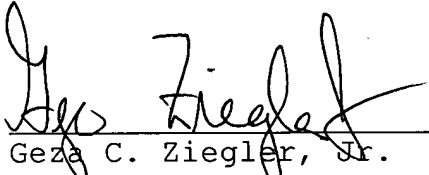
3.   Claims 7-9 are not anticipated by Eatwell et al. ("Eatwell") under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 7 recites producing a gain coefficient for noise suppression in which a first estimation of the gain coefficient is made adaptively and this first estimation is used to produce a noise estimation which is then used to produce a second estimation of the gain function.   This is not disclosed or suggested by Eatwell.   The Examiner states that "Eatwell discloses a method of producing a gain coefficient for noise suppression in which a first estimation of the gain coefficient is made adaptively and this first estimation is used to produce a noise estimation (FIG. 2, output W of Wiener, gain calculator 5) which is then used to produce a second estimation (output C of gain modifier 8) of the gain function."   The Examiner is arguing that the output W of Wiener, gain calculator 5, is a noise estimation.   This is simply not correct since the output W of Wiener gain calculator 5 is a factor that is used to adjust the amplitude of a value to which it is applied.   On a straightforward reading of the terms, this is not a noise estimation.   Furthermore, a person skilled in the art would not consider the output of a Wiener gain calculator and a noise estimation to be the same at all.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance.   Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.   Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of $1572 is enclosed for a three-month extension of time and additional claim fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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